(c) Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 empowers the Central Government to enhance or reduce the royalty rates in respect of any mineral by notification in the Official Gazette. The Government revises the rate of royalty on coal and lignite after taking into consideration the views of all stakeholders *viz.* the coal producing States, the major coal consumers and keeping in mind the impact of such revision on the overall economic growth of the country.

Recommendation of Tariff Commission for coal pricing

417. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to establish a regulatory framework for coal pricing;

(b) what impact it would have on the cost of generation of power in the country;

(c) whether the proposal has been scrutinized by the Tariff Commission; and

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the Tariff Commission on the proposed regulatory framework on the coal pricing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above. However, the Tariff Commission has been requested to recommend the price of coal for the power sector and to suggest modalities for pricing of coal for other sectors.

Shifting the headquarters of CIL

†418. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that demand for shifting the headquarter of Coal India Limited from Kolkata to Ranchi is being made for several years as most of coal mines are situated in Jharkhand;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have agreed to this demand in principle; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN): (a) to (c) The Government has received some representations in this regard and a decision in this regard is yet to be taken.

Increase in coal demand

419. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Vision Coal — 2025, in another 20 years the demand of coal would increase by 350 per cent *i.e.* 1,200 million tonnes from the present 370 million tonnes;

(b) whether Coal India Limited has any action plan to expand its operations abroad by acquiring coal fields to ensure continuous supply of quality coal to meet the domestic demand;

(c) the other plans does it have to increase its production; and

(d) the new technological methods that are being adopted to reduce ash content in coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. As per projections made in the Coal Vision, the coal demand for the year 2024-25 at the rate of 8% Gross Domestic Product (GDP), would be around 1267 million tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir. Coal India Limited (CIL) has proposed to form a subsidiary 'Coal Videsh'. CIL envisages to avail of mining rights in foreign countries for deposits of low ash thermal coal and coking coal.

(c) The following steps have been taken to increase the coal mining/ production in India:

(1) 100 mining projects have been identified for implementation during Tenth Plan.

(2) Improvement in equipment utilization, mechanization/ modernization of existing and new mines, timely implementation of projects and increasing productivity in underground and opencast mines.